Mr. K. Ayyappan *(Ezhuvas South)*.—You can enquire into the matter.

Mr. President.—The property in the library is vested in a committee. It is not Governmental. As a matter of fact I had a deputation from the committee in which they asked for an increase in the grant. I suggested to them that they ought to get a grant from the Ernakulam municipality since it is situated within the municipality. How can Government appoint a committee to enquire into an institution the property of which is vested in a non-official committee?

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*.—What I want is to suggest some ways and means to improve it. For the present, I may be allowed to withdraw the resolution.

Resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

33. Remission of Land-tax.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar (*Urakam*).—"*This Council recommends to the Government to reduce the land tax by 25 per cent in the coming year*".

The resolution is self-evident. I do not therefore propose to make any speech.

Mr. P. Govinda Menon *(Adur)*.—I second it.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon (*Diwan Peishkar*).—Mr. President, Sir, I am handicapped by the absence of a speech. The Hon'ble the mover does not speak what he means. I oppose it without making any speech.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Pallippuram)*— Sir, this matter is not one to be so lightly treated as was done by the mover and the Government representative.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam)*—It was not treated lightly by the mover.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Pallippuram)*.—I think he ought to have brought the reasons why he brought such a preposterous proposition, or a proposition that seems to be so preposterous.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon *(Diwan Peishkar)*.—I did not say so.

* **Dr. A. R. Menon** *(Pallippuram)*.—Now, Sir, while the neighbouring Government was giving a concession last year,

* Speech not corrected by the Hon'ble Member.

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what was the reason for taking away that concession by our Government? Did you give any satisfaction to this House why you refused to extend that concession last year? In what way is the Government more responsible than the non-officials here in a matter like this? Do you mean to say that the condition was more prosperous here compared with that in the neighbouring State or in British territory?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon *(Diwan Peishkar).*—This resolution is for next year.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Pallippuram).*—I am asking why you tamper with this resolution that is passed and that with a sense of irresponsibility throwing all kinds of economic—if I may say so—absurdities.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon *(Diwan Peishkar).*—We are not surprised of it.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Pallippuram).*—Getting up here and saying to the House conditions have improved, prices have gone so high that this concession is unnecessary is meaningless. That is the way in which our Revenue Member will reply. I do not know whether the Government is in a position to grant this concession. What I mean to say is that concessions are given in the neighbouring places. I can understand a Government coming forward and saying that our financial position is of such a nature that whatever may be our desire to extend this concession, we are not able to do so. We do not want to hear that conditions have improved to such an extent, that it is preposterous even to ask for such a concession. I myself do not know the financial position of the Government. What I want Government to realise is, whether it is 12½ or 25 per cent, it is not the monetary concession that matters. It is the sympathy underlying that concession that matters. When the people realise that Government also understand the economic condition and that the Government is doing something to alleviate their miseries that goes a very long way. I perfectly agree that even this concession of 12½ per cent—here it is 25 per cent which may be preposterous—may not affect them to any appreciable extent. Yet that gesture, that indulgence to show some concession, goes a long way. I want Government to consider, if possible, to give some concession in land revenue for the coming year as has been granted by the neighbouring States.

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Mr. P. Raman Menon (*Mulakunnathukavu*).— Are the conditions so bad?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon (*Diwan Peishkar*).—Conditions of next year cannot be foreseen. If the conditions demand it, it will done.

* **Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar** (*Urakam*).—Sir, why I brought this resolution at this part of the time and why I did not make any speech is this. I think it is necessary to explain, because this was a subject which used to be discussed almost every year. This demand for the reduction of tax was being made by this House for the last 5 or 6 years consecutively. Government also used to give us some remissions. They gave us some remissions for 2 or 3 years. But last year I was not able to bring the motion in the Kumbhom meeting or Makarom meeting. In the Standing Finance Committee meeting I made a proposal that some remission should be given and I think—if I remember aright—I made a proposal here also in the open Council. But the Government said that there would be difficulties in balancing the budget, that they have already framed the budget on the basis of this income and that it would be impossible for them to balance the budget and that they would not be able to give any remission this year. So I thought I would be in time now to make the request to the Government to grant some remission for next year. The arguments that are for and against have been thoroughly thrashed out in this House, several times. So far as we are concerned we claim the remission of land tax on the ground that the depression has not lifted. But according to the Government probably they will say it has been lifted and that we are not entitled to get any remission. On that ground I think we have to differ and only a vote of this House and not a speech will be able to convince this House that the depression has not lifted. That is why I didn't want to make any speech in the beginning. I therefore commend this resolution for the acceptance of the House and request that it may be put and voted upon.

Motion was put and negatived.

Mr. President.—16 for and 17 against. The resolution is therefore lost.

34. Shifting of the Talappalli Magistrate's Court.

* **Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan** (*Vadakkancheri*).—'*This Council recommends to the Government that the Talappalli*

* Speech not corrected by the Hon'ble Member.

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